

June 27, 2001

back to the attitudes and relationships at home.

All of us in the Greater Cincinnati area are grateful for Jerry's many years of dedicated and caring service. We appreciate his outstanding leadership and friendship, and wish him well in many new challenges and opportunities to come.

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD SIMS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most respected citizens in my district, Bernard Sims. Bernard Sims died on June 3rd at the age of 97.

Bernard was well known throughout his hometown of LaGrange, Illinois as a leader, counselor, and teacher. During his ninety-seven years, Bernard fought for equal rights for all citizens. Bernard refused to tolerate discrimination in any form. His promotion of mutual respect has forever made the city of LaGrange a better place.

One of the most respectable traits of Bernard's character was his ability to get things done. He led through action. His friends respectfully recall when Bernard led a sit-in at the Walgreen's lunch counter until the establishment agreed to serve African Americans. His nonviolent approach and his positive attitude shaped the LaGrange civil rights movement. Bernard was wholly diplomatic in his actions and respect for him crosses all racial and ethnic lines.

Bernard was a well-known football and baseball star at Lyons Township High School. He worked as an auto mechanic, a handyman, and a real estate entrepreneur. He was born to the first African American family in LaGrange and Bernard met his wife, Helen, in 1923 at a LaGrange diner. The couple spent a remarkable seventy five years together until his death. Bernard lived his ideals through membership in the Knights of Columbus, Toastmasters, and the NAACP. His active life and positive attitude helped him make a difference everywhere he went.

Bernard was an asset to our community and will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to Bernard's family and the LaGrange community during this time of mourning. I am certain Bernard's legacy will live on in the community for years to come.

His community minded spirit holds a lesson for all of us. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in remembering Bernard Sims and the contributions he made to his community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 25, I missed three recorded votes because my flight from St. Louis was canceled. Had my

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

flight not been canceled, I would have voted 'as follows on these three Resolutions:

"Yea" on H. Res. 160, calling on Communist China to release Li Shaomin and all other American scholars of Chinese ancestry;

"Yea" on H. Res. 99, expressing the sense of the House that Lebanon, Syria and Iran should call upon the Hezbollah to allow Red Cross representatives to visit four abducted Israelis presently held by Hezbollah forces in Lebanon; and

"Yea" on H. Con. Res. 161, honoring the 19 U.S. servicemen who died in the terrorist bombing of Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia on June 25, 1996.

HIGH-SPEED RAIL INVESTMENT
ACT OF 2001

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my friend, Mr. OBERSTAR, and 123 of our colleagues, in introducing the bipartisan "High-Speed Rail Investment Act of 2001." We believe this bill is critical to getting high-speed rail projects started across the country and liberating our Nation's highways and airways from increasingly serious congestion. This legislation, a companion to S. 250 in the other body, is designed to put into place a federal program to support States in the development of high-speed rail. The House passed a similar bill in the 106th Congress.

Congestion on our highways and in our skies is at a crisis point. The cost to our nation in terms of lost productivity and wasted fuel could be as high as \$ 100 billion a year. This will only get worse as road and air travel continue to increase. We cannot resolve this problem simply by building new roads and new airports, the costs are enormous and in many places we simply do not have the space. Our rail system has fallen far below the standards of systems in most other developed industrial countries. We have scarce fiscal and land resources and we must make more efficient use of our existing infrastructure. The rail lines are there already.

Our bill would build on the current rail infrastructure. The bill would authorize Amtrak to issue \$12 billion in bonds over the next 10 years for high-speed rail projects in up to 12 regional corridors identified by the Department of Transportation. The bond proceeds could be invested in high-speed rail rights-of-way, rolling stock and other capital improvements. Bonds could also be issued by Amtrak on behalf of any other qualified intercity passenger rail carrier with the approval of the Secretary of Transportation. The bondholders would receive federal tax credits in lieu of interest payments and the credits would be included in taxable income. States would provide at least a 20 percent match which would be deposited in a trust account to redeem the bonds, but Amtrak would remain ultimately responsible for repaying the principal. The state match would help ensure that only high priority projects are funded.

The bill provides that not more than \$1.2 billion in bonds could be issued in each fiscal

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year from 2002 to 2011. Also, not more than \$3 billion could be designated for qualified projects on the northeast rail corridor between Washington, DC and Boston, Massachusetts. In addition, not more than \$3 billion could be designated for any individual state for qualified projects.

We believe this proposed legislation is forward looking, cost-effective, and absolutely necessary if we are to ensure that our nation's transportation system can handle the expected growth in travel without being overwhelmed by congestion and gridlock. We encourage our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this legislation.

COMMENDING LOUNSBERRY
HOLLOW MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, each and every day Americans are exposed to a deluge of negative images of our younger citizens. Television, radio and newspaper reports are replete with stories of the misdeeds of young Americans. Frankly, coverage of ringing alarm bells and scandal sells.

However, this kind of coverage does not tell the entire story. Nor is it fair to the millions of younger Americans who are doing good, helping their friends and neighbors and volunteering to improve their communities.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise this today to draw the attention of my Colleagues to the efforts of just one group of young people—the students at the Lounsberry Hollow Middle School. This weekend I was pleased and gratified to participate as the Vernon Township Fireman's Association honored this group of community-minded, energetic youngsters. Under the guidance of the Director of the School's "enrichment program", their outstanding teacher, Vernoy Paolini, the students at Lounsberry Hollow Middle School worked for over 2½ years to raise \$36,000 to help fire fighters do their lifesaving work.

These students in Vernon Township have set a record and a high standard for all of us to recognize.

Nearly three years ago, the students became interested in an emerging firefighting technology—thermal imaging cameras. The students embarked on an effort to raise the funds to provide Vernon's firefighters with these cameras. They organized a range of creative activities. They sponsored Tupperware Bingo, sold pens and pencils, sponsored games, collected cans, gathered food, sold 15,000 lollipops, established the "Change Makes a Difference" program, etc. With this dedication and commitment, they raised over \$36,000.

In the meantime, State Senator Bob Littell (R-Franklin) stepped in and through his leadership on the Senate Appropriations Committee, provided communities all across the state assistance to purchase the thermal cameras.

Undaunted, the young people rededicated themselves to helping reduce fire dangers.